

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE
1809 - 2009
Designed and Decorated by Dathern Moon

HOW DID SHE DO IT? Dathern designed and decorated an eight feet, two inch tall 200th anniversary display cake for the church where her family has worshipped since 1965. Design work was started in January, 2008 and she finished the cake March 24, 2009. The cake sitting on the twenty two inch tall table is exactly ten feet tall. A work of love, everything given freely to the church.

The cake is supported by a thirty inch diameter, one half inch thick plywood board with nine ball feet to support over 400 pounds. The cake weights approximately 200 pounds. It has eighty pounds of fondant on it. Many wooden dowels in each tier support the cake, all perfectly cut to exact length, no variance allowed. Using a three feet long level; the floor, the table and every section of the cake had to have the bubble always in-between the two center lines on the level, no variance allowed.

The plateau that sits on the plywood foundation is covered with approximately 1000 mosaic tiles left over from the facade on the front of the church building. Dathern placed the mosaic tiles out in color patterns and glued them on the styrofoam plateau one at a time with Elmer's glue.

The first tier above the plateau has arches that are a major part of the church building. The center of worship and the stained glass windows depict the orderly movement of the universe. The front of the church and the stained glass windows were mostly designed by NASA engineers, the reason the church decor has more cosmic features than the traditional figures shown artistically in most all other churches, national and international.

The second tier shows symbols of church worship, of which, she carefully placed in certain places for specific emphasis on certain items of worship.

The third tier has pictures of eight pastors (ministers), just a few of the many pastors that have served the church for 200 years. Dathern made the frames for the pastors pictures out of gum paste by fitting three different designs together.

The separation assembly between the 3rd and 4th tiers is made of two support plates, four heavy duty posts and has a large piece of styrofoam, the exact height of the posts, in the center for extra cake support. The four plaques are each inscribed with the church's 200th anniversary theme (FBC Celebrates "The Footprints Continue" 1809 - 2009).

The fourth tier is Dathern's rendition of an anniversary cake with drapes, bows, lace and pearls to give this cake creation a flair of real cake to celebrate an anniversary.

The fifth tier was made to represent the church's local, national and international music program that starts children as early as they can sing until as long as they live. The music program includes people from all walks of life who participate in the orchestra, the church choir, the day care center, the special children and adults, organ and piano classes, the senior hallelujah choir and so many other areas of music that it is too numerous to mention. Dathern made fifteen choir children and placed them on this tier. Dathern made each one of them individually, colorfully dressed each one and gave them special hair make-up and color.

The sixth tier has pictures of the five buildings that this church has worshipped in for 200 years. One of the attention areas, for some reason or other, is that the first church building had a dirt floor.

The separation assembly between the 6th and 7th tiers has one plate, four posts and four special designed plaques with three dimensional letters high lighting the 200 for the 200th year celebration. Dathern has adorned the separator all around with gum (sugar) paste flowers, in fact, the whole cake has 647 gum paste flowers on it.

The seventh tier has pictures of The Living Christmas Tree which is an annual event with presentation of word, song and orchestra music. People from all walks of life from all over the world have been guests at this presentation that is given free, which includes five different presentations a year and includes approximately 2000 people at each presentation.

The eight tier has the Alpha and Omega that is located in the church's prayer room.

The ninth tier was designed by Dathern on Sunday mornings while she sat in the Sanctuary and became enchanted with a creation that she never noticed too much before. The gum paste flowers that she decorated the top of the cake with are the same colors as depicted at the back of the church baptistry.

As Dathern designed and decorated, her husband R. D. made drawings, checked leveling, made accurate measurements, cut wooden dowels to exact specifications for support, kneaded 80 pounds of fondant and other time spent that is too numerous to mention.

In Dathern's own words: "I volunteered to do this for our church. It was not a job. I made the 200th anniversary cake out of a labor of love and enjoyed every moment during these approximately fourteen months of designing and decorating. When the cake was set up at our Huntsville, Alabama convention center on June 13, 2009 with over 1100 people of all walks of life present, I have never had so many compliments and hugs at one banquet in my whole life. Also, when the cake was set up in the church narthex that night, for the next seventeen days I continued to receive compliments and hugs from people who came from many different places and walks of life. My words of blessings and honor go to the Lord above and it has been wonderful for me to experience such a glorious event as this, during my lifetime".

These are the flowers I used to decorate the cake: roses, orchids, pansies, cherry blossoms, dogwood branches, hibiscus, lilies, tulips, southern magnolia, camellia, daffodil, gerber daisies, hydrangea, step, calla lilies, stargazer lilies, many tiny filler flowers, a total of 647.

Humbly submitted by Dathern's husband: R. D. Moon Dathern's email: dathern@att.net